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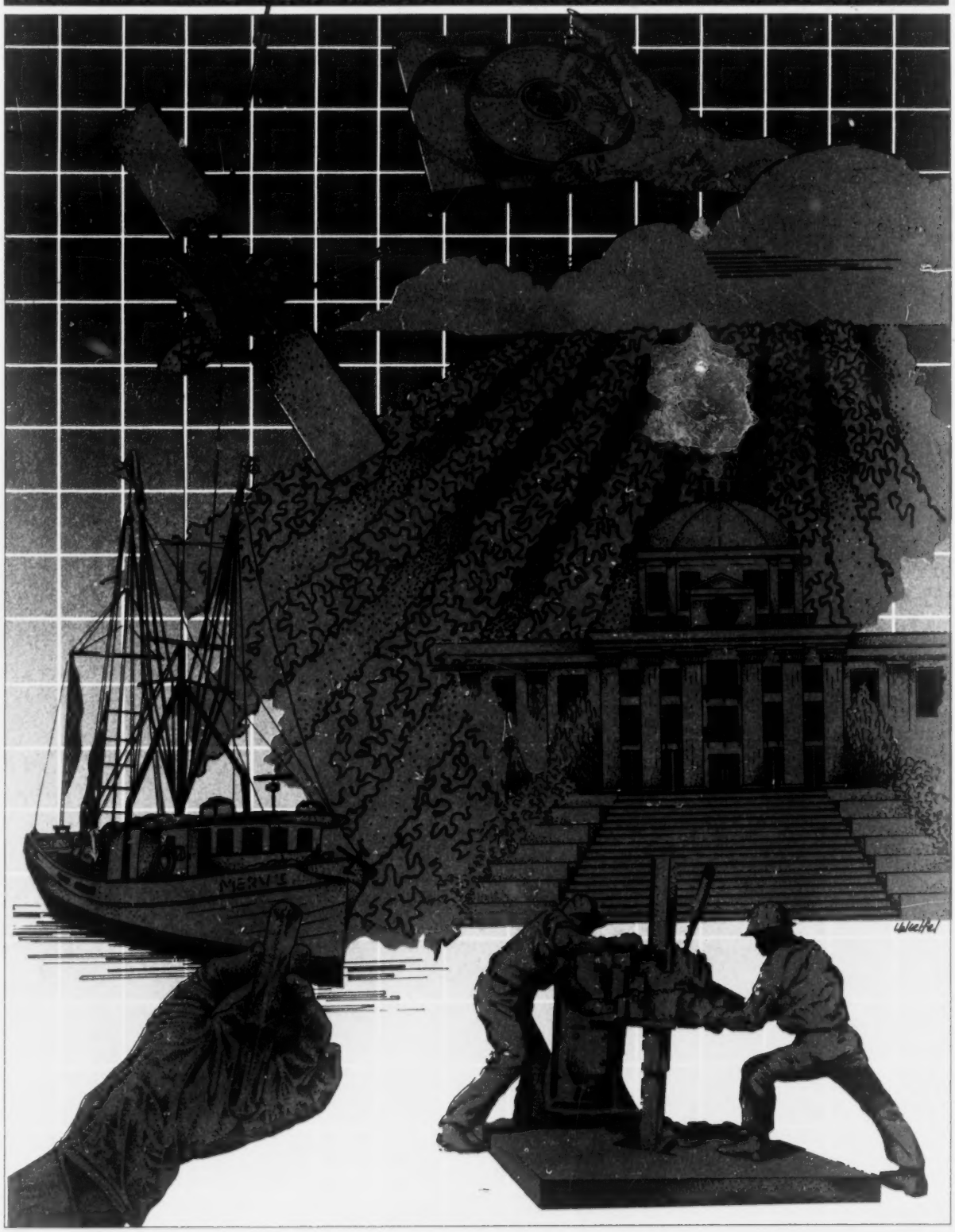

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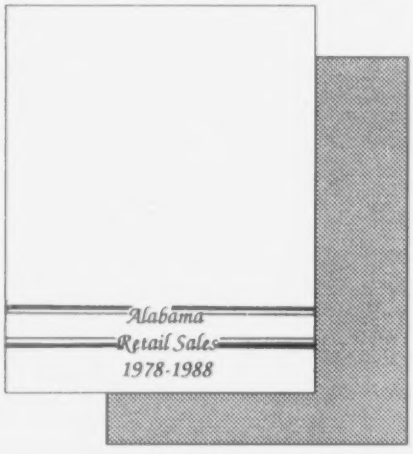

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HEALTH CARE IN ALABAMA

Robert W. McLeod and
Edward M. Smith

Introduction

There are many factors which businesses, investors, and others take into consideration when making the decision to locate in a particular state. Among the more important factors are the policies and infrastructure designed to foster human resource development. In Alabama, like our sister states, we are faced with the problems of upgrading both the quality and skill level of our work force. In order to solve these problems the state has directed its efforts toward the three major aspects of human resource development: education, welfare, and health care. Although progress has been made in the area of educational reforms, there is still a tremendous amount of work left undone in the areas of health and welfare.

The health care delivery system in Alabama affects not only the health status of our population, but other social, political, educational, and economic systems as well. Poor health status produces students who have more learning problems. Those with lower levels of education are more likely to have difficulty in taking care of their personal health needs when they are adults. The employee with poor health is more likely to be absent from the job and to have lower productivity. As one might expect, poor health status is a vicious cycle which results in less education followed by lower earnings and a reduced ability to know when and how to respond to one's health needs.

The quality of health care for any geographical area or income subgroup cannot be judged by state averages. Alabama has areas of excellence, including a world class medical center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and also areas of need, resulting from a maldistribution of health resources and reduced access.

Ultimately, the health care system must be judged by its quality and the access which is accorded to the citizens. There should be a proper match between the inventory of health resources and the health needs of the population which those resources are to serve.

Quality is, of course, to be judged on the basis of outcomes. The end results of medical intervention should be the elimination of illness, the saving of lives, and the improvement of the mental, physical, and emotional well being of those served.

Access, on the other hand, refers to the degree to which those who need health care are able to receive it. Access for some citizens may be determined largely by the availability of transportation; for others, it may be a matter of health insurance. The location of resources and the degree to which the citizens are insured, or have other entitlements, are primary factors in determining the availability of health care when and where it is needed.

In order to develop health care policies which will aid the economic growth and development of Alabama, one has to understand how the health resources of the health care delivery system vary within the state and region. Among the variables that affect the location of a site for a new business or the expansion of an existing one is the availability of quality, affordable health care for the managers and employees. In an attempt to recruit new industry, local officials in many areas of the state are faced with the problem of convincing the prospective developer that the health care needs of the employees can be adequately served. This is difficult to accomplish if there is a shortage of medical resources (health professionals and facilities) in the area.

Health Resources

Based upon a review of health care resources, Alabama is clearly a state of contrasts. In the major cities and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) throughout the state there appears to be an adequate supply of skilled health care providers and medical facilities. However, in the rural areas major problems exist. It is here that we see most vividly the high interaction between a low level of economic activity, a shortage of health resources, and low income levels.

Physician Supply

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Alabama was ranked 43d out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia in terms of the number of nonfederal physicians per 100,000 civilian population in 1985. Alabama was next to last when compared to the contiguous states of Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Twenty-seven counties in Alabama were designated "Health Manpower Shortage Areas" in 1988 based upon an unacceptably low ratio of primary physicians (general or family practitioner, internist, pediatrician, or obstetrician/

gynecologist) to population. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services assigns a county to a level of shortage if the physician/population ratio is greater than 1:3,000. Seven counties were designated as Level 1 based upon more than 5,000 people for each primary care physician. Coosa County had the greatest need with 11,700 people for each primary care physician. In 1985 the primary care physician to population ratio in the United States was 1:962.[1]

It is apparent that there are serious shortages of physicians in many rural areas of Alabama. It is also clear that there is a correlation between the health needs and the economic problems of these areas. A higher level of development of one is necessary for significant improvement in the other. It is probably true that progress in economic development will not be sufficient alone to change the distribution pattern of physicians, but the interrelationships between the two should be kept in mind as policy makers attempt to develop solutions for one or the other of these problems.

Nurses

The Registered Nurse (RN) shortage is a problem that faces both rural and urban hospitals. The demand for nurses is to a great extent a derived demand. Physicians and hospitals require the services of nurses in order to achieve their professional missions. The difficulty in recruiting and retaining nurses in a rural health care setting is not significantly different from the problem facing urban health care providers.

When solutions are found to the problems of low occupancy rates and the physician shortage in rural hospitals, then greater numbers of nurses will be attracted to rural areas of the state. The major problems contributing to the shortage of nurses are structural in nature and will be best solved on a national level. Salary compression, low status, overwork, and poorly delineated education/training requirements are problems unique to nursing, and these problems must be worked out by the profession in conjunction with the major employers and the physicians.

Allied Health Professionals

The shortage of physicians and nurses is exacerbated by the inability of rural hospitals to recruit and retain qualified professionals in such areas as occupational and physical therapy, as well as laboratory and radiology technicians due to the limited volume of work.

In order to address these problems some schools of allied health are providing multi-skill training for these jobs. A program may produce a person who is qualified in radiology therapy as well as laboratory procedures. Part of the problem is a mismatch between the training of the allied health professionals and the needs of rural hospitals. Another, and perhaps larger, part of the problem relates to the generally poor fiscal health of the rural hospital which faces falling demand and declining revenues.

Hospitals

From 1981 to 1987 the occupancy rates in Alabama went from 75.8 percent to 56.4 percent for MSA hospitals and from 59.1 percent to 46.9 percent for rural county hospitals. If the hospital closings in 1988 were taken into consideration, the decline would be more significant in the rural areas.[2]

As a result of the declining occupancy rates, 16 hospitals have closed in Alabama over the last 10 years with 11 of them in the last two years. Most of these hospitals were relatively small and located in rural areas. According to State Health Planning Agency data, there are about 14 rural hospitals of 100 or fewer beds considered to be in critical financial condition with occupancy rates of 24 percent or less. There are another 29 in serious condition with occupancy rates of between 25 and 40 percent.

Among the reasons mentioned most often as the cause of hospital closings are the following:

(1) Low occupancy rates,

(2) Inadequate Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement,

(3) Excessive charity care,

(4) Difficulty in recruiting and retaining physicians; and, in some cases,

(5) Lack of community support.[3]

Health Care Problems

Health care in the United States is in trouble. Already consuming over 11 percent of GNP, it shows no signs of slowing down. At the same time there are large numbers of individuals who have questionable access because they lack any kind of public or private insurance. Although the problems of providing health care for the medically uninsured, planning for the needs of an aging population, and lowering infant mortality are national as well as state problems, they are ones which will have a major impact on the overall quality of health in this country and state.

The Medically Uninsured

Nationwide 12.9 percent of the population, or 31.1 million Americans, were not covered by some form of private or public insurance in 1987 (Table 1). Other estimates of the number of uninsured in the United States range up to 37 million, or 16 to 17 percent of the population.[4] The uninsured are frequently classified as the medically uninsurable, the unemployed uninsured, and the employed uninsured.

The medically uninsurable category includes those persons who, because of serious pre-existing conditions, cannot purchase private insurance at any cost. A second group of uninsured persons are those who are unemployed and medically uninsured.

In this mixed group are individuals who are basically healthy but are out of work, the homeless, and those who have been released to the community from mental institutions.

The employed uninsured group includes primarily those individuals working for organizations which do not offer a group health care insurance benefit to their employees. Most employees purchase health insurance when it is made available by employers.

As can be determined from Table 1, the medically uninsurable and the unemployed uninsured represented only a small part of the total uninsured group in 1987. More than 80 percent of the uninsured were employed full- or part-time for the full year or part of the year or were dependents of employed persons. In fact, more than half of the employed uninsured were employed in the retail or service trades. For those working in construction or agriculture, the probability of being uninsured was more than 25 percent. The employed uninsured were predominantly self-employed or worked for small business firms.[5]

The percentage distribution of establishments by number of employees and the percentage distribution of employees by the size of establishment in Alabama in 1986 closely matched the distribution for the United States for 1987. Nationally the probability of being employed and uninsured in 1987 in businesses with one to 24 employees was 23.4 percent and for those with 25 to 99 employees the probability was 16.6 percent. A conservative estimate for the number of employed uninsured persons in establishments under 100 employees for Alabama for 1986 is 130,654. (This figure is derived by applying 1987 U.S. percentages [Moyer] to Alabama employment data for 1986.)

More than one in five of the uninsured (21.8 percent) were under 15 years of age. Many of these were children of employed persons with individual health insurance coverage but who were unable to purchase family coverage.

Table 1, which projects Alabama uninsured on the basis of the national averages, most certainly understates the uninsured problem in the state. Of those in the United States who claimed either public or private insurance in 1987, almost nine percent were covered by Medicaid. In 1985 over nine percent of Alabamians (381,000) were covered by Medicaid.[6] The closeness of the state and national percentage coverage is misleading. In the nation as a whole, 13.5 percent of the population lived below the poverty line in 1987, while in Alabama almost one in four people was in that group.[7]

In 1986 there were 991,000 Alabamians living below the poverty line ($985/month for a family of four). Approximately 35 percent of those living below the poverty line in Alabama were receiving Medicaid, but the AFC payment cutoff level for a family of four was $147 a month, about 15 percent of the poverty level and higher only than

TABLE 1. UNINSURED POPULATION, UNITED STATES PROJECTED TO ALABAMA 1987

	U.S. No. of Uninsured (Millions)	Percent of Total U.S. Uninsured	Projected Alabama Uninsured*
Total	31.1	100.0	539,982
Under 15 years of age	6.8	21.8	117,716
In families with incomes above 185% of poverty level	12.8	41.1	221,933
Employed full or part time	16.6	53.3	287,810
Employed or dependents of employed	25.1	80.5	437,686

Source: M. Eugene Moyer, "A Revised Look at the Number of Uninsured Americans," *Health Affairs*, 8(2), Summer 1989, 102-110.

*"Projected Alabama Uninsured" derived by applying national percentages to Alabama population data.

Mississippi in the United States. Recently mandated coverage to families with income under 133% of the poverty level should reduce this problem–other options include mandated coverage for all employees or a national prgram of health care.

Finaliy, risk pools have been established in some states. Under this arrangement all companies selling private health insurance within the state are required to participate in providing health insurance to those who ordinarily would not qualify. Rates are adjusted upward to reflect the higher cost of providing insurance for this group of people.

Health Care and the Elderly

A state's medical needs are closely tied to the age distribution of its population. The amount and type of medical services required are determined in large part by the age distribution of the population. Alabama, like the rest of the United States, is experiencing an increasingly larger percentage of the population 65 years or older.

Diseases of the elderly tend to be chronic as compared to acute, episodic illnesses of the younger population. Because of their chronic conditions, lack of mobility, and lack of caregivers, the elderly are more likely to require long term care. Special health needs of the elderly are hospital discharge planning, intermediate and skilled nursing care, home health care, case management, geriatricians, homemaker services, monitoring services, mobility, and housing.

The 65-years-or-older group used 2.7 to 3.7 times the health services of the total population with the exception of nursing home care, in which the usage was 6.7 times as great as the total population. Six percent of the persons 65-years-or-older are in nursing homes, but 22 percent of those 85 years or older are in nursing homes.[9] The average age of a nursing home resident is 78. One of the greatest tests of the health care system will be to provide long term care for the elderly population. As the very old population grows, this group will use more of all health services. But the supply of physicians, the availability of hospital rooms, and the availability of other personal health care services are not likely to present major problems. However, the enormous increase in the need for nursing home beds (or long term care alternatives) constitutes a pressing imperative.

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality has been falling in the United States and the industrialized countries of the world for the past 75 years.[10] Improved sanitation, improved prenatal services, more wide-spread immunization programs, and improved access and utilization of health care are largely responsible for the falling rate

Even though the improvement in the United States in the past 25 years has been very significant, many other countries have decreased their infant mortality more dramatically. From 1965 to 1984 the U.S. infant morality dropped by more than 50 percent from 24.7 per 1,000 to 10.6 per 1,000.[11] However, the United States dropped from sixth position in the mid-1950s among the industrialized counties to a tie for sixteenth place in 1986. Alabama's infant mortality rate of 13.9 placed it at the bottom of the 50 states in 1986. This rate placed the state below the countries of Spain and Italy.[12] Higher infant mortality rates are associated with underweight babies, teenage mothers, lack of prenatal care, and low educational achievement by the mothers.[13]

As shown in Table 2, of the 59,558 babies born in Alabama in 1987, 726 died before their first birthday. Underweight babies (under 2,500 grams) are at greater risk for physical and mental disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, mental retardation, blindness, deafness, and death. A total of 4,790 (8.0 percent of total live births) underweight babies were born in Alabama in 1987. Teenage mothers are more likely to give birth to underweight babies, and this group of mothers represented 17.4 percent of the total in 1987. Of every four babies born in 1987 one was born to a mother who had not completed 12 years of education. The mortality rate for infants whose mothers had no prenatal health care visits was four times as high as the average. In 1987, 1,047 babies were born to

TABLE 2. BIRTHS AND SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILD AND MOTHER, ALABAMA 1987

	Number	Percent
Total Births	59,558	100.0
Died before first birthday	726	1.2
Underweight at birth (less than 2,500 g.)	4,790	8.0
Born to teenage mothers	10,354	17.4
Born to mothers who had not completed 12 years of educations	15,707	26.4
Born to mothers who had not received any prenatal care	1,047	1.8

Source: *Facts for Alabamians, 1987*, Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health Services, undated.

mothers who had received no prenatal care.

A large number of mothers give birth in counties other than the one of their residence. In 1987 there were 28 counties in Alabama with no hospital delivery services (Table 3). These counties are predominantly rural and poor.

The dimensions of the problem of infant mortality and the associated problem of teenage mothers are known. Developing affordable solutions is difficult. It is clear that teenage females should be targeted with educational programs. Birth to this group of females is associated not only with a higher rate of infant mortality, but the babies are more likely to be physically or mentally handicapped.

TABLE 3. ALABAMA COUNTIES WITH NO HOSPITAL DELIVERY SERVICES 1987

1. Autauga	8. Cherokee	15. Escambia	22. Perry
2. Barbour	9. Cleburne	16. Fayette	23. Pickens
3. Bibb	10. Conecuh	17. Geneva	24. Shelby
4. Blount	11. Coosa	18. Henry	25. Sumter
5. Bullock	12. Cullman	19. Lamar	26. Washington
6. Butler	13. Dale	20. Lawrence	27. Wilcox
7. Choctaw	14. Elmore	21. Lowndes	28. Winston

Source: *County Health Department Prenatal Services and Counties With No Hospital Delivery Services*, November 18, 1987, from ADPH, Division of Family Health Services.

Economics Of Rural Alabama

An analysis of the rural areas reveals certain characteristics which have exacerbated their health care problems. One factor is the lower than average per capita earnings relative to urban areas. Others include (1) higher unemployment rates; (2) a higher proportion of elderly residents who are generally on low fixed incomes and/or eligible for Medicaid or Medicare; and (3) a higher infant and maternal mortality rate. There is, however, no evidence of a significant difference in the prevalence of serious chronic health problems in the rural areas.[14]

The lower than average income can be attributed to a number of problems associated with the types of employment available in the rural areas of most states. Employment by the manufacturing sector tends to be by firms that require labor intensive operations such as textiles, apparel, and wood products. These areas have been hurt by the increase in foreign competition and the relatively strong dollar.

The other major source of employment is in the agricultural industry. Although foreign competition still remains one of the major problems for the farmer, the overproduction which occurs as a result of government subsidies tends to keep prices down. As a result of the lower incomes available from farming, the concept of the traditional family farm is changing.

In order to increase family incomes many farmers have switched to part-time farming coupled with full-time employment in another industry. In many cases this results in commuting to an urban area for employment. These commutes can result in a shift of expenditures from rural to urban areas for goods and services, including nonemergency medical services.

The lower than average income levels have an effect on the revenue available to the county and city governments. This limitation on revenues has an obvious bearing on the level of support for health care. Many of the local governments in rural areas are also faced with a declining or stagnant rate of growth in population which adversely affects the revenue base. The higher unemployment rates in the rural areas of the state also result in increased indigence, which further drains the resources of the health care delivery system.

The relatively greater number of the elderly in the rural areas of the state also presents a problem for the health care delivery system. Under the current Medicare Prospective Pricing System, rural hospitals receive lower payments than urban hospitals. According to some studies the difference can be as much as 40 to 50 percent lower.[15]

Summary And Conclusions

The health care problems in Alabama in many ways parallel those of other states in the region. There is a large geographical area of the state that is thinly populated, suffers from high rates of unemployment, has a larger share of indigent patients, has third world rates of infant mortality, and lacks adequate health care professionals and facilities. The problem facing Alabama is how to break the cycle of poverty and then create an economic environment which will support an adequate level of medical services in the rural areas of the state.

One key element in attracting and retaining health care professionals in the rural areas of the state is to revitalize the rural hospital as a focal point of primary health care

delivery in rural counties. In order to do so the following problems must continue to be addressed:

(1) Inadequate Diagnosis Related Groups (DRG) reimbursement,

(2) Recalculate urban/rural differences to reflect actual costs differentials,

(3) Enhance state Medicaid reimbusement programs,

(4) Make better use of facilities with low occupancy rates, and

(5) Develop a coordinated approach to economic development in the rural areas which includes the health care delivery system as an integral component.

The trend of increased hospital closings, high infant mortality, and lack of adequate health care in our rural counties cannot be allowed to continue. The lack of an adequate rural health care delivery system exacerbates the problems of high unemployment and the declining economic base of these areas. The local hospital should be the key to a better life for those in the rural communities. The ability to support these hospitals will depend upon a coordinated effort of the medical community, local citizens, the state and federal government. No one of these groups can solve the problem by itself.

NOTES

[1] F. Lawrence Clare, Enell Spratley, Paul Schwab, and John K. Inglehart. "Trends in Health Personnel." *Health Affairs*, (Winter 1987): 90-103.

[2] Vickey Williams, "Hospitals in Crisis, Parts I and II," *Alabama Living*. June and July 1989, 10ff and 11ff respectively.

[3] Alabama Hospital Association, *Guide to the Health Care Field*, 1988 and prior editions.

[4] Susan S. Daudicina, "State Health Risk Pools: Insuring the 'Uninsurable'", *Health Affairs*, 7(4), Fall 1988, 97-104.

[5] M. Eugene Moyer, "A Revised Look at the Number of Uninsured Americans," *Health Affairs*, 8(2), Summer 1989, 102-110.

[6] *Alabama Medicaid Agency Report to the Blue Ribbon Committee to Study Uncompensated Care*, 1986, 8.

[7] *Ibid.*, Attachment, "Current Payment Standards."

[8] *Ibid.*, p. 8.

[9] "Older Americans' Health," *Statistical Bulletin*, (Apr-June, 1988): 10-17.

[10] "Infant Mortality, 1986: National and International Differences." *Statistical Bulletin*, (Apr-June, 1988): 2-9.

[11] Arthur Barsky, "The Paradox of Health," *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 318(5), 4 Feb. 1988, 317-319.

[12] "Infant Mortality," p. 2-8.

[13] "Facts for Alabamians, 1987," Alabama Department of Public Health, Bureau of Family Health Services.

[14] Alabama Hospital Association. *The Small and/or Rural Source Document*, 1989, p. 1.

[15] *Ibid.*, Exhibit 2.

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GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS

Type of Activity	Annual		1988			1989									
	1987	1988	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
INDUSTRIAL															
Bituminous coal production[1] (1,000 net tons)	24,870	26,055	2,360	2,311	2,393	2,478	2,394	2,765	2,426	2,575	2,077	1,506	2,156	2,072	2,215
Natural gas production (1,000,000 cu. ft.)	155,990	176,008	15,160	14,782	16,141	16,717	14,672	16,342	15,407	15,937	15,340	16,020	15,498	14,559	13,492
Cotton consumption (1,000 lbs.)	483,311	482,002	41,496	39,776	37,268	41,932	39,300	45,356	41,760	49,634	48,418	38,372	54,134	48,285	48,891
Crude oil and condensate production[2] (1,000 barrels)	20,621	20,597	1,706	1,691	1,745	1,547	1,556	1,750	1,700	1,734	1,671	1,737	1,754	1,640	1,498
Electric energy consumption, industrial purposes (1,000,000 kwh)	24,675	26,008	2,198	2,210	2,120	2,098	2,155	2,174	2,247	2,319	2,224	2,214	2,382	2,172	
Pulp, paper, and paperboard production (1,000 net tons)	6,904	6,977	579	531	595	619	551	583	613	574	578	633	596	591	601
CONSTRUCTION															
Building contracts awarded, new and alterations combined[3] ($1,000)	3,114,400	3,533,400	266,300	241,700	236,300	193,000	238,000	224,300	213,700	262,300	238,700	344,300	190,700	262,800	309,500
Residential	1,340,300	1,145,200	89,700	82,200	90,800	69,700	82,300	89,700	97,700	99,200	118,000	112,200	94,100	97,600	132,300
Nonresidential	1,009,700	1,453,200	108,100	81,700	78,400	107,600	57,400	89,300	62,300	112,700	86,100	136,900	53,100	112,300	132,500
Public works and utilities	764,300	935,100	68,600	77,800	67,100	15,600	98,300	45,500	53,600	50,400	34,600	95,100	43,500	52,900	44,900
Cement consumption (1,000 net tons)	1,401	1,398	126	115	111	93	76	111	123	126	100	106	134	105	133
TAX COLLECTIONS															
Title of Tax ($1,000)															
Total	3,052,983	3,184,030	242,778	270,761	255,829	271,830	260,683	333,788	330,038	342,359	283,213	249,133	276,960	298,822	255,757
Franchise	85,027	81,609	1,189	464	573	757	2,135	55,015	3,217	1,477	5,560	1,254	684	2,745	869
Gasoline (excl. aviation)	213,006	220,608	19,000	17,717	20,244	19,904	17,293	17,125	17,397	21,422	20,102	19,721	19,416	20,516	18,151
Income	1,249,376	1,296,181	65,791	120,789	106,266	86,088	133,760	138,344	150,169	184,870	128,874	66,919	132,451	130,327	67,627
Motor fuels	56,856	60,244	4,865	7,179	4,967	5,202	5,055	5,909	4,198	6,592	4,607	5,068	5,391	4,689	6,762
Oil/gas privilege	35,150	35,493	2,444	2,688	2,639	3,154	2,436	3,207	2,879	3,462	6,203	3,116	3,276	2,977	2,891
Oil/gas production	9,962	10,432	731	885	856	861	721	948	828	1,046	1,701	905	964	914	868
Sales	810,128	844,582	71,097	72,229	77,565	80,724	62,558	71,945	67,748	82,276	76,227	73,188	74,636	76,818	76,912
2.2% gross receipts	57,351	59,202	15,039	108	8	14,762	312	1	14,641	422	30	15,056	0	35	15,022
TVA electric	47,383	52,522	5,449	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,545	4,411
Tobacco	72,605	71,847	6,261	5,650	6,477	5,596	5,359	5,499	5,962	6,082	6,225	5,935	5,877	5,422	5,949
Use	88,397	97,843	21,941	1,577	1,302	22,706	1,847	1,315	20,350	2,212	932	22,136	2,074	684	23,094
Utility	165,984	171,014	13,604	14,143	14,517	15,968	15,032	14,754	13,333	13,527	13,794	16,700	15,692	15,320	13,236
PRICES															
Consumer Price Index, U.S. (1982 - 84 = 100)															
All items	113.6	118.3	120.2	120.3	120.5	121.1	121.6	122.3	123.1	123.8	124.1	124.4	124.6	125.0	125.6
Percent change	4.3	4.3	.3	.1	.2	.5	.4	.6	.7	.6	.2	.2	.2	.3	.5
Food	113.5	118.2	120.3	120.2	120.7	122.2	122.9	123.5	124.2	124.9	125.0	125.5	125.8	126.1	126.5
Housing	114.2	118.5	119.9	119.9	120.2	120.7	121.1	121.5	121.6	122.1	122.9	123.9	124.2	124.3	124.4
Fuel and utilities	103.0	104.4	105.4	104.3	105.0	106.0	105.9	105.9	106.2	107.0	109.2	109.7	109.7	109.7	108.0
Apparel and upkeep	110.6	115.4	120.7	119.9	118.0	115.3	115.3	119.3	120.9	120.4	117.8	115.0	115.0	120.0	122.7
Transportation	105.4	108.7	110.0	110.7	110.8	111.1	111.6	111.9	114.6	116.0	115.9	115.4	114.3	113.7	114.5
Medical care	130.1	138.6	141.2	141.8	142.3	143.8	145.2	146.1	146.8	147.5	148.5	149.7	150.7	151.7	152.7
Energy	88.6	89.3	89.9	88.9	88.7	89.0	89.3	89.8	94.9	97.4	99.0	98.5	97.0	95.9	94.6
Producer Price Index, U.S. (1982 = 100)															
All commodities	102.8	106.9	108.2	108.3	109.0	110.5	110.8	111.5	112.3	113.2	112.9	112.7	112.0	112.3	112.7
Industrial commodities	102.6	106.3	107.1	107.5	108.1	109.6	110.1	110.6	111.8	112.4	112.4	112.2	111.4	111.9	112.4
Purchasing power of the dollar, U.S.															
As measured by															
Consumer prices (1982 - 84 = $1.000)	.880	.846	.832	.831	.830	.826	.822	.818	.812	.808	.806	.804	.803	.800	.796
Wholesale prices (1982 = $1.000)	.973	.935	.924	.923	.917	.905	.903	.897	.890	.883	.886	.887	.893	.890	.887
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT[4]															
Civilian labor force (1,000 workers)	1,895.0	1,887.0	1,906.7	1,914.9	1,917.2	1,897.6	1,888.8	1,908.9	1,892.1	1,911.8	1,931.7	1,953.1	1,954.6	1,951.1	1,953.3
Unemployment	147.0	136.0	129.1	138.6	147.3	161.7	144.9	140.4	126.1	119.6	144.3	151.9	148.6	134.8	126.1
Unemployment rate	7.8	7.2	6.8	7.2	7.7	8.5	7.7	7.4	6.7	6.3	7.5	7.8	7.6	6.9	6.5
Employment	1,748.0	1,751.0	1,777.6	1,776.3	1,769.9	1,735.9	1,743.9	1,768.5	1,766.0	1,792.2	1,787.4	1,801.2	1,806.0	1,816.3	1,827.2
Nonagricultural	1,507.7	1,551.3	1,560.9	1,585.9	1,573.8	1,549.8	1,556.0	1,559.5	1,566.9	1,578.7	1,575.2	1,571.3	1,576.1	1,577.0	1,587.9
Manufacturing	368.8	378.9	380.7	382.0	380.6	381.0	383.8	382.7	385.3	385.7	387.4	383.0	387.7	387.2	386.6
Durable goods	178.0	184.4	186.8	187.2	187.0	186.9	187.5	187.0	188.6	189.2	189.0	187.0	188.9	189.9	188.9
Lumber and wood products	29.9	30.4	30.7	30.6	30.4	30.3	30.3	30.5	30.7	30.8	31.0	30.5	30.4	30.3	30.3
Stone, clay, glass products	9.7	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	9.9	10.0	9.9	9.8	9.9
Primary metals	25.5	27.0	27.6	27.7	27.8	27.9	28.1	28.0	28.2	28.2	28.3	27.5	27.8	28.2	28.3
Fabricated metals	22.0	21.5	21.3	21.3	21.2	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.7	21.9
Machinery (excl. electrical)	21.6	26.8	27.7	27.8	28.1	27.7	28.0	28.2	28.5	28.5	28.4	28.4	28.7	28.5	28.4
Electrical, electronic equip.	22.5	20.4	20.7	20.9	20.4	20.7	20.8	20.1	20.6	21.1	20.6	21.0	21.2	21.4	21.4
Transportation	28.6	29.5	29.7	29.7	29.9	29.9	29.9	29.7	29.8	30.3	30.6	29.8	31.2	31.4	30.0
Other durable goods	18.2	18.7	18.8	18.8	18.8	18.7	18.8	18.9	19.1	18.6	18.7	18.3	18.2	18.6	18.7
Nondurable goods	190.8	194.5	193.9	194.8	193.6	194.1	196.3	195.7	196.7	196.5	198.4	196.0	198.8	197.3	197.7
Food	31.2	32.2	32.8	32.8	32.6	32.6	33.0	32.7	33.6	33.8	34.4	34.9	35.1	35.2	35.1
Textile mill products	39.0	40.4	40.6	40.7	40.9	40.7	40.7	40.7	40.8	40.4	40.8	40.4	41.0	41.1	41.3
Apparel	55.9	56.2	55.1	55.0	54.2	54.9	56.5	56.0	56.2	56.3	57.0	54.6	56.0	55.7	55.1
Paper and allied products	21.1	21.1	20.8	21.7	21.3	21.1	20.9	21.0	20.9	21.1	21.4	21.5	21.9	21.5	21.5
Printing and publishing	12.7	12.7	12.5	12.8	13.0	13.1	13.2	13.2	13.0	13.0	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.9	12.9
Chemicals and allied products	11.2	11.1	11.1	11.1	11.2	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.4	11.5	11.4
Rubber products	17.5	18.6	18.7	18.4	18.0	18.1	18.3	18.5	18.4	18.2	18.1	17.9	18.1	16.9	17.9
Other nondurable goods	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Nonmanufacturing	1,138.9	1,172.4	1,180.2	1,203.9	1,193.2	1,168.8	1,172.2	1,176.8	1,181.6	1,193.0	1,187.8	1,188.3	1,188.4	1,189.8	1,201.3
Mining and quarrying	11.3	11.2	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.3	11.4	6.3	11.2	11.4	11.5
Bituminous coal mining	8.1	7.7	7.8	7.8	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	2.3	7.2	7.3	7.3
Contract construction	75.1	77.4	78.2	77.0	76.5	71.4	72.1	73.2	74.3	75.2	74.9	75.1	75.5	75.1	75.6
Trans., comm., and utilities	73.3	79.0	79.0	79.2	79.1	79.2	79.3	79.7	79.4	79.5	79.5	79.9	80.0	79.5	79.1
Trade	331.7	339.5	344.0	347.8	355.2	344.7	341.6	341.9	34[illegible]2	344.1	345.5	345.3	345.3	346.0	347.5
Wholesale	78.4	79.5	80.4	80.1	80.3	80.1	80.0	80.4	80.7	80.8	81.3	81.5	81.5	81.7	81.8
Retail	253.3	259.9	263.6	267.7	274.9	264.7	261.6	261.5	262.5	263.3	264.2	263.8	263.8	264.3	265.7
Finance, insurance, real estate	70.5	70.2	70.6	70.6	70.8	70.2	70.6	71.1	71.1	71.3	71.6	71.8	71.8	71.6	71.7
Service and miscellaneous	276.5	286.1	289.3	289.8	290.9	282.1	284.0	285.9	287.5	294.8	295.1	297.1	296.5	298.1	298.3
Government	300.6	308.9	307.8	328.1	309.4	309.8	313.3	313.7	314.8	316.8	309.8	312.8	308.1	308.1	317.6
Federal	60.9	65.6	65.0	64.9	64.2	63.8	63.9	63.8	63.9	64.2	65.1	65.2	65.3	65.2	65.4
State and local	234.7	243.4	242.8	263.2	245.2	246.0	249.4	249.9	250.9	252.6	244.7	247.6	242.8	242.9	252.2

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS

Type of Activity	Annual		1988			1989									
	1987	1988	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONT															
Other employment activity															
State Employment Service *(number)*															
Job applications	224,282	240,540	21,985	20,729	16,488	24,750	19,639	23,116	17,324	22,609	25,182	26,475	28,171	25,196	25,466
Nonagricultural placements	96,391	107,113	8,553	8,494	6,711	6,593	7,002	8,377	7,345	9,439	8,911	16,284	12,821	10,258	9,621
Unemployment compensation															
Initial benefit claims *(number)*	349,204	348,271	24,517	25,161	28,031	59,343	23,782	24,455	19,828	23,235	25,370	46,377	26,522	19,703	22,916
Payments *($1,000)*	165,953	140,632	9,492	11,406	12,412	16,421	13,471	15,505	11,260	11,636	12,656	13,367	14,455	10,615	10,919
County data *(civilian labor force and unemployment rate)*															
Autauga	16,116	15,782	16,080	16,240	16,090	15,800	15,990	16,050	15,920	16,120	16,130	16,230	16,440	16,440	16,410
	7.0	6.1	6.7	7.8	7.0	6.9	7.6	6.2	6.4	6.7	7.7	7.4	9.0	8.4	7.8
Baldwin	39,863	39,573	39,390	39,790	40,030	39,560	39,220	39,820	39,050	39,370	39,610	40,640	39,800	39,660	39,960
	7.6	8.1	7.4	7.8	8.6	9.0	7.7	7.4	6.4	5.9	6.7	7.7	6.9	6.6	6.1
Barbour	11,648	12,091	12,320	12,430	12,370	12,300	12,140	12,380	12,170	12,150	12,260	12,350	12,410	12,490	12,500
	8.0	7.5	7.0	7.0	7.4	10.1	8.5	7.8	7.1	6.7	8.0	8.1	8.1	6.9	6.3
Bibb	7,278	7,212	7,210	7,280	7,170	7,220	7,000	7,020	6,950	7,050	7,300	7,200	7,280	7,230	7,180
	11.1	10.0	9.5	9.9	13.9	16.3	8.6	7.9	7.7	6.8	8.0	7.7	7.8	7.1	6.3
Blount	17,620	17,172	17,190	17,250	17,410	17,160	17,010	17,220	16,990	17,170	17,290	17,400	17,340	17,530	17,430
	7.3	6.8	5.5	6.6	6.9	7.5	6.2	5.8	5.1	4.6	5.7	5.4	5.2	5.2	4.4
Bullock	3,801	4,405	4,460	4,540	4,410	4,390	4,220	4,220	4,230	4,220	4,420	4,650	4,690	4,510	4,530
	14.4	13.5	13.2	13.3	13.4	14.3	11.6	11.8	11.3	10.2	14.2	15.0	14.6	11.8	11.9
Butler	9,599	9,266	9,230	9,470	9,280	9,140	9,160	9,150	8,970	8,920	9,450	9,420	9,390	9,110	8,860
	10.6	10.4	12.2	13.8	13.3	15.9	15.8	12.8	11.7	11.2	16.3	14.4	14.6	12.1	10.4
Calhoun	51,596	52,094	52,140	52,490	52,810	52,400	51,980	51,430	51,870	52,470	53,020	53,660	53,520	53,670	53,770
	7.8	7.3	6.2	6.7	7.0	8.4	7.3	7.6	7.6	6.1	7.3	8.1	7.1	6.8	6.3
Chambers	17,510	17,075	17,070	17,120	17,110	16,840	16,600	16,730	16,520	16,640	16,820	16,770	16,940	16,860	16,970
	5.9	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.7	6.7	5.7	5.8	5.2	5.9	7.2	7.2	7.2	5.6	5.3
Cherokee	7,970	8,308	8,390	8,610	8,480	8,500	8,320	8,360	8,290	8,230	8,510	8,470	8,480	8,480	8,450
	8.7	7.5	6.6	6.9	7.7	10.4	8.3	7.3	8.0	7.1	10.0	9.3	8.5	8.2	7.5
Chilton	15,586	14,836	14,920	15,200	15,000	15,390	14,890	14,790	14,500	14,900	15,080	15,350	15,320	15,240	15,140
	9.5	7.9	7.3	8.4	9.5	10.1	8.1	7.7	7.3	6.7	8.0	9.5	9.0	8.3	8.2
Choctaw	7,003	7,078	7,030	7,390	7,060	7,130	7,000	6,960	6,910	7,010	7,140	7,250	7,170	7,030	7,110
	10.0	9.5	9.3	10.8	10.5	12.7	11.0	10.1	9.7	8.9	9.8	10.2	9.6	9.9	14.4
Clarke	11,461	11,513	11,330	11,460	11,630	11,510	11,320	11,340	11,070	11,160	11,540	11,500	11,380	11,280	11,360
	11.2	10.6	8.3	8.5	11.2	12.7	11.0	10.3	8.6	7.9	10.7	10.1	8.9	8.1	8.2
Clay	6,146	6,152	6,210	6,240	6,230	6,240	6,270	6,510	6,380	6,500	6,430	6,600	6,670	6,630	6,600
	8.9	7.7	6.7	5.8	6.6	7.3	6.8	14.8	5.7	6.7	8.2	7.9	7.4	6.0	5.4
Cleburne	5,431	5,433	5,710	5,830	5,640	5,610	5,490	5,640	5,740	5,770	5,830	5,870	5,760	5,680	5,700
	7.2	6.5	4.5	4.5	5.5	9.2	6.9	6.4	7.3	4.8	5.5	7.3	6.7	5.3	4.8
Coffee	17,960	18,068	18,260	18,320	18,080	18,010	18,000	18,300	18,100	18,070	18,410	18,890	18,900	18,710	18,800
	6.3	6.5	6.3	7.1	7.3	7.3	6.2	5.9	5.4	5.2	5.9	6.7	5.9	5.2	5.8
Colbert	23,872	23,713	23,950	24,020	24,220	24,050	23,940	24,280	23,850	23,950	24,110	24,570	24,650	24,840	24,570
	10.2	9.2	9.1	9.4	10.5	12.6	11.5	11.5	9.5	8.6	9.5	10.8	10.6	9.6	8.3
Conecuh	6,009	5,823	5,590	5,770	5,710	5,660	5,540	5,560	5,510	5,520	5,580	5,620	5,670	5,520	5,560
	16.0	10.9	9.3	9.9	12.6	12.3	11.4	10.8	9.7	8.6	11.5	10.1	10.1	8.7	9.2
Coosa	4,988	4,952	5,030	5,010	4,960	4,890	4,850	4,940	4,970	4,960	5,050	5,080	5,150	5,140	5,120
	5.5	6.2	5.5	7.2	8.1	8.2	7.4	7.7	5.8	5.6	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.3	5.5
Covington	17,413	17,374	17,480	17,890	18,060	17,800	17,560	17,650	17,420	17,580	17,760	18,100	18,180	17,750	17,940
	7.5	7.8	9.4	9.1	9.4	9.5	8.4	7.9	6.5	5.9	7.0	8.0	7.1	6.0	5.8
Crenshaw	6,538	6,727	6,990	7,120	6,900	6,920	6,810	6,930	6,850	6,920	7,050	7,170	7,340	7,190	7,140
	9.2	7.0	5.8	7.0	7.4	9.1	7.0	6.5	6.1	5.9	7.3	7.2	7.2	6.0	5.0
Cullman	31,513	32,049	32,610	33,060	32,770	32,580	31,990	32,420	32,270	32,610	32,980	33,470	33,590	33,010	33,520
	7.7	7.3	6.8	7.3	7.7	8.7	7.6	7.1	5.9	5.5	6.1	6.4	6.4	5.7	6.0
Dale	17,831	17,971	18,230	18,290	18,420	18,130	18,010	18,310	18,180	18,500	18,610	18,620	18,860	18,740	18,010
	7.5	7.8	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.9	8.1	8.2	7.0	7.4	8.1	7.4	7.9	6.8	7.1
Dallas	21,371	20,411	20,480	20,470	20,350	20,140	19,970	20,090	19,900	20,030	20,470	21,060	20,950	20,460	20,350
	14.6	12.1	11.4	11.4	11.9	12.5	12.1	11.3	10.8	10.6	12.5	13.6	13.7	13.3	12.0
DeKalb	29,014	29,821	30,320	30,670	30,410	30,170	29,830	30,470	30,230	30,170	31,020	32,070	32,160	31,260	31,110
	7.8	7.3	6.7	7.3	7.8	9.1	8.4	8.4	7.0	6.0	6.8	7.1	6.9	6.0	5.5
Elmore	21,000	21,508	21,710	21,830	21,760	21,430	21,590	21,860	21,540	21,800	21,710	21,860	21,750	21,790	21,820
	5.9	5.8	5.5	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.3	5.9	5.3	5.6	6.3	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.0
Escambia	16,782	16,373	16,450	16,730	16,530	16,380	16,200	16,350	16,100	16,100	16,520	16,790	16,810	16,800	16,530
	10.4	9.7	8.6	10.2	11.0	11.8	10.4	9.6	9.5	8.8	9.9	9.2	9.4	8.5	7.9
Etowah	43,120	42,183	42,540	42,850	42,710	42,330	42,080	42,800	42,030	42,490	43,100	43,810	44,220	44,460	43,530
	9.2	8.4	8.1	9.8	10.2	11.4	10.1	10.2	7.9	7.8	9.5	9.5	10.1	13.5	8.9
Fayette	7,636	7,478	7,540	7,680	7,570	7,620	7,670	7,650	7,630	7,680	7,780	7,740	7,990	8,160	8,340
	10.6	8.1	7.0	7.8	8.0	10.2	10.2	7.9	8.1	7.5	8.1	12.4	9.9	8.3	8.2
Franklin	15,130	14,549	14,660	14,760	14,690	14,670	14,510	14,770	14,510	14,800	15,230	15,760	15,310	15,230	14,900
	10.1	10.8	14.2	13.5	11.8	13.2	12.3	11.4	10.6	9.4	10.3	12.7	11.4	12.2	9.8
Geneva	10,443	10,563	11,000	10,960	10,800	10,740	10,640	10,740	10,690	10,670	10,980	11,290	11,080	11,060	11,180
	6.2	5.5	5.8	5.5	5.9	6.3	5.6	5.3	5.0	4.1	5.3	6.3	5.5	4.6	5.2
Greene	3,743	3,646	3,630	3,780	3,650	3,750	3,650	3,660	3,610	3,590	3,830	3,890	3,970	3,910	3,760
	15.3	11.8	9.2	10.1	11.0	14.5	11.9	11.5	10.7	9.3	13.0	11.6	16.7	15.1	10.7
Hale	6,105	6,067	6,120	6,380	6,240	6,280	6,150	6,250	6,130	6,200	6,340	6,390	6,330	6,330	6,360
	8.2	7.8	6.5	7.7	8.4	10.8	8.3	8.0	7.0	7.1	8.7	8.3	8.3	6.5	7.0
Henry	6,766	6,960	7,110	7,370	7,120	7,070	6,890	6,890	6,720	6,690	6,740	6,890	6,880	6,850	6,950
	6.6	6.2	5.2	5.7	5.6	7.7	6.9	6.5	6.0	5.4	6.6	7.7	6.4	5.1	5.3
Houston	40,014	40,337	40,540	40,730	40,920	40,630	40,350	40,930	40,810	41,300	41,740	41,940	42,260	42,230	42,490
	5.8	5.5	5.1	5.3	5.3	6.5	5.6	5.5	4.7	4.5	5.7	5.4	5.3	4.8	4.3
Jackson	20,929	20,804	20,430	20,580	20,790	21,150	20,620	20,680	20,610	20,710	21,170	21,180	21,290	21,190	21,620
	9.4	12.0	12.8	13.3	14.7	17.2	15.0	13.5	12.4	10.2	12.1	11.5	10.6	9.1	9.2
Jefferson	338,868	331,653	335,940	333,140	335,760	330,350	330,160	334,580	332,120	336,640	339,940	341,690	341,740	342,660	341,700
	6.6	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.7	6.2	5.6	5.5	5.2	5.1	5.9	6.0	6.1	5.4	4.9
Lamar	8,675	8,518	8,540	8,810	8,590	8,540	8,460	8,690	8,600	8,590	8,720	8,940	8,830	8,880	8,900
	6.9	6.2	6.1	6.0	5.9	7.1	6.1	6.5	6.8	6.4	7.6	11.9	8.2	7.1	8.6
Lauderdale	36,490	36,645	36,830	36,820	37,330	36,530	36,630	36,980	36,610	37,090	37,310	37,650	37,590	37,790	37,840
	8.2	7.5	6.9	7.0	8.6	9.4	9.0	8.5	7.3	7.1	7.9	8.4	7.8	6.6	6.3
Lawrence	11,918	12,687	12,590	12,640	13,000	13,130	12,880	12,860	12,650	12,890	13,470	13,760	13,620	13,480	13,270
	12.7	10.5	9.1	9.3	12.2	14.1	12.9	12.4	9.8	9.6	13.7	13.9	12.8	10.3	9.2

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS

Type of Activity	Annual		1988			1989									
	1987	1988	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT CONT															
Lee	38,259	38,786	39,750	39,700	39,500	39,030	39,180	39,750	39,440	40,170	39,860	39,940	40,650	40,900	41,400
	5.4	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.0	4.4	4.4	3.7	4.0	5.3	5.0	5.1	4.4	4.1
Limestone	30,096	30,997	32,040	32,210	31,450	31,100	30,750	30,590	30,420	30,670	30,630	30,150	31,250	31,780	32,120
	6.5	6.1	5.1	6.0	6.5	7.8	6.9	6.4	5.5	5.0	7.1	8.7	6.4	5.4	4.9
Lowndes	4,688	5,347	5,860	6,050	5,960	5,960	6,230	6,390	6,450	6,530	6,770	7,050	7,020	6,650	6,440
	19.3	14.3	11.1	11.2	11.7	13.7	12.6	11.7	10.7	10.4	13.6	14.5	13.2	11.9	10.9
Macon	10,563	10,389	10,380	10,400	10,280	10,270	10,180	10,190	10,010	10,130	9,980	10,340	10,810	10,500	10,400
	6.7	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.8	9.4	8.1	7.0	6.3	6.4	7.6	7.6	8.1	6.3	5.9
Madison	130,399	132,750	135,130	134,880	136,170	133,930	133,930	135,050	134,840	137,550	139,230	139,440	140,140	140,120	140,850
	5.2	5.1	4.7	5.1	5.3	5.7	5.3	5.0	4.5	4.2	5.4	5.4	5.6	4.9	4.8
Marengo	9,838	9,588	9,610	9,760	9,740	9,420	9,370	9,460	9,380	9,490	9,770	9,860	9,720	9,530	9,600
	8.4	7.2	6.2	6.6	8.1	8.5	7.6	7.2	6.7	6.5	8.0	8.1	7.5	5.9	6.2
Marion	15,548	15,624	15,610	15,650	15,320	15,680	15,200	15,280	15,220	15,400	15,680	16,020	15,850	16,080	15,880
	10.7	8.5	7.6	8.5	9.2	12.9	9.3	8.6	9.2	9.0	11.5	13.9	12.8	14.2	14.1
Marshall	37,288	38,209	38,500	39,540	38,930	38,890	38,600	38,620	38,430	39,130	39,600	40,330	40,090	39,530	39,510
	7.9	7.8	6.4	10.0	8.4	9.4	8.4	8.0	6.4	5.8	7.2	7.8	6.9	6.4	6.1
Mobile	172,319	169,208	169,030	171,310	172,480	170,570	170,930	172,520	170,030	170,740	172,510	174,660	173,080	171,390	172,440
	9.7	9.2	8.8	9.5	10.4	10.9	10.5	9.7	9.1	8.3	9.5	9.3	9.5	8.6	8.1
Monroe	9,708	9,641	9,810	9,950	9,790	9,840	9,780	9,970	9,730	9,810	9,850	10,010	9,910	9,690	9,740
	11.7	9.8	9.6	10.4	10.6	12.1	12.0	12.2	10.8	9.9	10.7	10.3	10.9	9.2	10.6
Montgomery	100,183	99,398	100,060	100,460	100,250	99,320	99,120	100,700	99,410	100,580	100,560	102,020	101,650	101,250	101,310
	6.5	6.3	5.7	6.2	6.2	6.9	6.2	6.1	5.8	6.0	7.0	7.4	7.5	6.5	6.0
Morgan	46,674	46,803	46,690	47,060	47,720	46,970	46,400	47,120	46,520	47,290	48,670	49,530	48,820	49,160	49,590
	8.5	7.6	6.6	7.2	8.8	8.5	7.9	9.0	6.5	6.2	9.0	8.9	7.2	6.3	7.5
Perry	5,363	5,608	5,730	6,050	5,960	5,860	5,780	5,810	5,700	5,780	5,800	6,020	6,060	5,890	5,750
	11.8	10.1	7.2	10.2	17.8	16.9	11.1	9.4	7.4	7.8	9.1	9.2	9.2	8.2	10.4
Pickens	7,268	7,168	7,250	7,360	7,330	7,330	7,190	7,270	7,150	7,210	7,320	7,380	7,480	7,410	7,420
	11.2	10.2	8.2	8.0	9.6	11.9	10.8	10.0	10.0	8.9	11.7	10.2	9.9	8.3	8.5
Pike	12,545	12,639	13,080	13,160	12,580	12,990	12,900	13,140	12,970	13,170	12,980	13,060	13,150	12,980	13,670
	7.0	6.2	5.6	5.7	7.0	6.8	5.9	6.1	5.3	5.3	6.6	6.5	6.8	5.6	5.8
Randolph	9,586	9,341	9,600	9,580	9,610	9,530	9,370	9,520	9,320	9,330	9,400	9,370	9,530	9,450	9,700
	6.4	6.7	6.4	5.3	6.4	7.2	6.3	6.5	5.8	5.9	7.5	8.9	8.9	8.4	6.4
Russell	22,475	23,306	24,090	23,270	23,520	22,850	22,960	23,080	22,980	23,340	23,540	23,730	23,500	23,640	23,480
	7.1	6.3	8.1	6.4	6.3	6.2	5.8	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.9	5.2	5.3	5.1
St. Clair	21,388	21,522	21,750	21,670	21,940	21,730	21,640	22,110	21,740	21,820	22,050	22,150	21,990	22,320	22,230
	6.0	6.0	5.5	6.0	6.6	7.6	6.8	7.3	6.2	5.2	6.0	6.1	5.5	5.9	5.3
Shelby	40,103	40,287	40,690	40,640	40,970	40,530	40,330	40,840	40,390	40,960	41,490	41,830	41,500	41,760	41,780
	5.0	4.6	4.0	4.8	4.9	5.9	4.9	4.6	4.1	3.9	5.0	5.5	4.8	4.4	4.2
Sumter	5,919	5,585	5,730	5,830	5,690	5,750	5,640	5,750	5,650	5,700	6,090	6,250	6,230	6,170	6,120
	12.6	10.0	7.1	7.7	9.4	10.8	7.7	8.1	7.6	7.2	11.8	10.7	10.8	8.4	7.5
Talladega	32,228	31,840	32,140	32,110	32,500	31,920	31,810	32,090	31,880	32,020	32,290	33,420	33,420	33,220	33,250
	9.6	10.0	9.6	10.3	10.6	12.3	11.3	10.5	9.7	9.1	11.1	13.2	10.8	9.6	8.8
Tallapoosa	18,992	18,483	18,700	18,670	18,570	18,440	18,290	18,520	18,510	18,720	18,940	19,130	19,300	19,160	19,090
	6.5	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.8	7.2	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.0	6.4	6.7	6.9	5.9	5.6
Tuscaloosa	69,623	70,020	71,660	71,540	71,870	70,380	70,920	72,000	71,680	72,400	71,250	72,080	72,460	73,830	74,390
	6.1	5.4	5.0	5.0	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.4	5.0	5.3	5.7	5.8	5.4	4.8	4.8
Walker	28,983	28,521	28,990	28,910	29,290	29,190	29,070	29,250	29,590	29,070	29,020	29,370	30,990	31,170	30,710
	11.0	9.1	9.2	9.7	10.3	11.9	11.1	10.3	11.8	8.8	8.5	9.3	14.1	13.7	12.2
Washington	5,719	6,583	6,740	6,900	6,950	7,000	6,950	6,990	6,750	6,800	6,870	7,040	6,940	6,950	7,100
	13.4	11.0	11.6	12.0	14.1	14.2	13.4	13.2	10.3	9.0	10.5	11.9	10.5	9.4	11.2
Wilcox	4,407	4,243	4,200	4,480	4,350	4,200	4,260	4,270	4,090	4,210	4,360	4,350	4,420	4,300	4,290
	12.6	12.1	10.5	12.0	15.3	16.7	17.7	16.0	12.6	12.3	15.8	16.4	16.1	14.2	13.2
Winston	9,883	10,401	10,610	10,710	10,510	10,600	10,460	10,370	10,350	10,490	10,550	10,850	10,890	10,980	10,750
	13.9	10.8	11.2	10.6	11.9	14.1	14.9	10.8	8.6	7.8	9.4	11.1	11.7	11.9	10.0
TRADE															
Foreign															
Shipments by water, Port of Mobile[5] *(1,000 tons)*	29,363	32,684	3,970	2,668	2,646	3,123	2,788	3,067	2,736	3,752	2,633	3,585	2,969	2,765	2,576
Domestic															
Electric energy consumption, non-industrial purposes *(1,000,000 kwh)*	28,038	28,507	1,966	1,820	2,263	2,338	2,120	2,193	1,938	2,128	2,583	2,870	3,070	2,694	
Gasoline sales[6] *(1,000 gallons)*	2,084,218	2,072,236	155,015	190,201	186,652	161,069	158,657	162,351	199,546	186,328	182,508	179,530			
New passenger car registrations[7] *(number)*	140,070	133,614	10,571	10,060	11,594	9,256	8,572	9,762	10,212	8,082	7,282	7,599	12,782	11,344	12,278
Taxable retail sales by kind of business, state totals[8] *($1,000,000)*															
Food	4,093	4,127	344	339	372	342	331	352	351	348	363	362	350	351	338
General merchandise	2,862	3,047	253	294	413	198	197	254	257	256	250	242	258	251	253
Apparel	853	933	79	90	141	53	53	88	70	70	72	68	84	78	70
Furniture, furnishings, etc.	977	1,035	86	91	127	75	70	81	79	82	85	83	85	80	79
Automotive	4,018	4,233	322	302	332	305	305	388	361	390	386	370	417	365	314
Gasoline service stations	286	294	24	23	26	25	22	26	25	26	28	27	29	26	25
Lumber and building materials	1,677	1,713	152	134	135	115	104	138	146	155	141	143	156	141	143
Hardware and farm implements	228	234	19	18	22	17	15	20	20	21	21	19	23	19	18
Eating places	1,791	1,915	164	156	174	150	146	172	170	173	180	178	177	169	168
Drug stores	391	418	32	32	48	39	34	35	36	33	31	31	32	30	32
All other retail	1,533	1,641	132	148	234	130	125	139	125	133	126	119	130	132	128
Total sales by retail concerns	18,709	19,591	1,608	1,627	2,023	1,448	1,403	1,692	1,640	1,688	1,684	1,644	1,741	1,643	1,568
Nonretail & unclassified concerns	3,160	3,414	289	282	306	279	275	297	284	310	307	292	333	311	330
Total all sales at retail	21,868	23,006	1,896	1,909	2,329	1,727	1,679	1,990	1,924	1,998	1,991	1,936	2,074	1,954	1,898

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS

Type of Activity	Annual		1988			1989									
	1987	1988	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
TRADE CONTINUED															
Taxable retail sales: Metropolitan Statistical Areas and counties[5] ($1,000)															
MSAs															
Anniston	602,268	625,354	51,188	52,089	60,778	45,250	43,207	52,314	50,013	52,594	52,696	53,826	54,029	50,945	49,690
Birmingham	5,797,096	5,902,728	475,780	456,214	568,517	451,269	433,585	501,248	482,866	498,827	498,670	473,377	516,218	486,246	475,723
Decatur	649,766	685,596	57,790	56,800	68,618	50,116	46,029	56,589	56,331	58,681	57,472	56,352	59,761	55,071	52,151
Dothan	696,013	711,033	57,320	58,991	70,127	58,949	59,105	71,274	66,399	68,309	70,471	66,343	75,409	67,731	64,071
Florence	718,517	766,223	64,154	65,309	82,599	62,269	58,377	74,109	71,265	75,521	73,813	72,179	78,810	73,745	69,032
Gadsden	524,919	557,127	43,817	44,754	57,471	39,188	37,191	47,856	45,429	47,738	46,840	45,720	47,411	45,138	43,854
Huntsville	1,302,226	1,353,069	110,623	110,050	131,616	117,132	110,308	132,966	126,427	132,826	131,688	130,174	138,248	128,021	129,684
Mobile	2,312,321	2,355,304	190,968	183,339	226,551	201,351	189,931	222,173	216,564	220,677	223,684	228,432	230,196	215,568	215,492
Montgomery	1,719,824	1,780,921	143,171	144,544	180,566	153,065	143,811	175,631	165,623	170,637	168,544	165,081	182,666	162,185	164,673
Tuscaloosa	739,660	766,952	62,316	63,326	76,627	60,892	59,713	63,289	63,006	67,034	69,242	64,886	70,078	67,442	64,203
Counties															
Autauga	122,285	129,020	10,596	9,853	11,714	13,180	12,250	14,096	14,620	14,776	15,187	14,710	15,153	14,745	13,962
Baldwin	374,180	389,862	30,940	27,878	32,293	35,259	33,968	43,529	43,674	44,852	48,045	50,511	48,511	42,862	39,840
Barbour	84,828	86,302	7,029	6,844	8,445	6,729	6,556	7,811	7,910	7,701	7,773	7,454	7,801	7,256	6,839
Bibb	51,658	51,768	4,361	4,653	4,431	3,436	3,306	3,719	3,868	3,807	3,958	3,659	3,791	3,897	3,657
Blount	110,515	114,936	9,663	10,085	10,506	8,460	8,258	10,051	9,867	10,531	9,903	9,701	10,353	9,843	9,072
Bullock	25,271	23,571	1,855	1,941	2,502	1,783	1,684	2,088	1,800	1,765	1,789	1,734	1,789	1,804	1,825
Butler	62,697	61,508	4,940	4,667	5,722	4,751	4,319	5,149	5,033	5,083	4,775	4,819	5,225	4,920	4,344
Calhoun	602,268	625,354	51,188	52,089	60,778	45,250	43,207	52,314	50,013	52,594	52,696	53,826	54,029	50,945	49,690
Chambers	125,636	124,968	10,208	10,166	10,431	9,832	9,882	11,460	11,297	11,405	11,788	11,165	11,719	11,310	11,180
Cherokee	51,230	54,698	4,400	4,552	4,641	4,965	4,897	5,933	6,005	5,942	6,039	5,586	6,258	5,693	5,468
Chilton	122,615	133,573	10,827	11,112	11,897	8,977	8,845	10,744	11,041	11,265	10,495	10,912	11,521	10,724	9,980
Choctaw	38,404	37,126	2,973	3,034	3,580	2,741	2,772	3,199	3,034	3,063	3,217	2,905	3,132	3,089	2,784
Clarke	104,604	105,838	8,513	8,297	9,759	7,727	7,589	8,726	8,931	9,012	9,140	8,756	9,026	8,122	8,383
Clay	31,968	32,924	2,835	2,603	3,032	2,834	2,769	2,921	2,708	3,001	3,003	2,788	3,217	2,999	2,942
Cleburne	26,929	28,828	2,439	2,302	2,639	2,620	2,203	2,716	2,384	3,043	2,450	2,755	3,059	2,750	2,627
Coffee	211,223	207,080	16,653	17,346	18,070	14,151	15,802	17,182	15,887	18,758	17,605	16,537	18,003	16,086	15,115
Colbert	293,782	315,529	27,647	26,715	30,599	27,596	25,916	31,038	30,410	32,250	31,408	30,261	33,946	30,696	28,446
Conecuh	32,476	29,652	2,199	2,533	2,694	3,095	2,499	3,012	2,839	2,966	2,667	2,883	2,910	2,725	2,572
Coosa	12,707	13,545	1,049	1,488	1,167	990	1,051	1,316	1,305	1,232	1,138	1,174	1,257	1,201	971
Covington	142,938	142,710	11,316	11,468	12,720	12,498	12,671	14,585	14,861	15,478	14,684	14,288	15,268	14,394	14,006
Crenshaw	40,376	41,017	3,464	3,358	3,781	3,502	3,553	4,051	3,425	3,699	3,352	3,635	3,799	3,866	3,616
Cullman	269,229	280,223	23,349	21,720	25,867	22,818	21,578	26,416	27,012	28,728	27,154	25,688	28,036	26,727	25,977
Dale	121,169	127,814	11,047	10,250	11,740	11,267	10,656	12,756	11,848	12,841	13,335	13,403	14,699	13,689	13,064
Dallas	219,565	218,699	17,683	18,146	19,965	15,234	14,780	17,788	17,500	18,728	16,920	16,607	18,214	15,781	15,320
DeKalb	212,053	227,288	19,197	18,392	20,800	15,050	14,937	18,315	18,316	18,527	18,873	18,281	19,581	18,995	17,941
Elmore	111,814	116,953	9,123	8,826	10,391	11,444	11,100	13,448	13,319	13,432	13,158	13,469	13,133	12,975	15,241
Escambia	136,495	138,394	10,843	10,578	13,144	9,315	9,258	10,824	11,520	11,273	11,101	10,609	11,479	10,206	9,864
Etowah	524,919	557,127	43,817	46,[illegible]4	57,471	39,188	37,191	47,856	45,429	47,738	46,840	45,720	47,411	45,138	43,854
Fayette	66,589	65,808	5,284	5,[illegible]91	6,907	4,450	4,431	5,443	4,748	5,274	5,273	5,262	5,407	5,112	4,603
Franklin	108,599	114,120	9,515	9,461	10,962	7,874	7,328	9,332	9,336	9,210	9,441	8,665	9,065	8,525	8,369
Geneva	131,414	119,895	9,801	11,415	10,724	4,640	4,484	5,210	5,031	5,106	5,002	4,699	5,679	5,154	4,512
Greene	18,730	19,837	1,619	1,642	1,583	1,806	1,727	2,008	2,080	2,037	1,871	2,139	2,329	2,018	1,731
Hale	30,315	29,379	2,524	2,415	2,573	2,565	2,505	2,822	2,871	3,187	2,819	3,018	3,211	2,912	2,648
Henry	41,338	43,957	3,958	3,970	4,308	3,290	3,557	3,731	3,607	3,534	3,880	3,131	4,112	3,912	4,010
Houston	574,844	583,219	46,273	48,741	58,387	47,682	48,449	58,518	54,551	55,468	57,136	52,940	60,710	54,042	51,007
Jackson	166,029	175,792	15,978	14,546	16,264	12,903	12,455	16,114	15,898	18,652	16,733	15,231	16,201	17,249	14,675
Jefferson	4,822,225	4,874,364	391,658	373,328	476,864	370,758	353,256	406,411	386,716	402,616	399,702	380,686	415,841	392,288	386,235
Lamar	37,102	34,236	2,746	2,847	3,454	2,887	2,783	3,521	3,324	3,394	3,149	3,075	3,304	3,320	2,945
Lauderdale	424,735	450,694	36,507	38,594	52,000	34,673	32,461	43,071	40,855	43,271	42,405	41,918	44,864	43,049	40,586
Lawrence	65,221	68,188	5,670	5,718	6,937	5,270	4,970	6,153	6,138	6,441	6,023	5,691	6,182	5,879	5,958
Lee	403,068	422,060	35,293	38,828	41,821	33,243	30,900	37,406	37,614	35,828	36,706	35,644	38,839	38,952	37,619
Limestone	195,876	203,248	17,330	15,721	19,465	15,893	14,881	18,509	18,319	19,785	18,896	17,724	19,069	18,470	17,425
Lowndes	21,658	22,210	1,597	1,845	2,448	1,651	1,778	2,153	1,917	2,057	2,213	1,885	2,088	2,109	1,815
Macon	53,662	50,192	3,614	3,502	3,921	4,853	4,842	5,659	5,325	5,499	5,578	5,634	6,248	5,958	5,420
Madison	1,302,226	1,353,069	110,623	110,050	131,616	117,132	110,308	132,966	126,427	132,826	131,688	130,174	138,248	128,021	129,684
Marengo	81,060	82,869	7,311	7,203	7,685	6,830	6,930	8,164	7,900	8,034	7,863	7,820	8,152	8,249	7,822
Marion	110,875	115,342	9,471	9,822	10,994	9,107	8,174	10,390	10,518	10,491	10,717	10,289	12,268	11,126	11,495
Marshall	427,632	447,551	36,117	37,279	42,237	32,266	31,386	40,116	39,878	41,967	39,949	38,933	42,134	39,722	36,011
Mobile	1,938,141	1,965,442	160,028	155,461	194,258	166,092	155,963	178,644	172,890	175,825	175,639	177,921	181,685	172,706	175,652
Monroe	73,217	78,198	6,267	6,805	7,603	7,439	7,316	9,298	8,348	8,996	8,495	9,053	9,683	8,972	9,045
Montgomery	1,485,725	1,534,948	123,452	125,865	158,461	128,441	120,461	148,087	137,684	142,429	140,199	136,902	154,380	134,465	135,470
Morgan	584,545	617,408	52,120	51,082	61,681	44,846	41,059	50,436	50,193	52,240	61,449	50,661	53,579	49,192	46,193
Perry	23,734	22,657	1,689	1,738	2,173	1,977	1,945	2,545	2,079	2,114	2,045	2,081	2,282	2,371	1,952
Pickens	42,458	42,090	3,401	3,453	3,925	3,771	3,692	4,463	4,530	4,658	4,542	4,056	4,502	4,327	3,763
Pike	115,053	118,110	9,646	9,346	10,804	11,384	10,419	12,424	11,633	11,511	12,130	11,064	12,466	11,841	11,668
Randolph	59,796	61,319	5,158	4,694	6,585	5,554	5,212	6,503	6,223	6,471	6,406	5,877	6,290	5,900	5,839
Russell	131,628	131,576	10,453	10,544	12,683	11,152	11,380	13,576	13,953	14,594	13,991	13,336	13,649	12,002	12,655
St. Clair	151,136	151,410	11,919	11,647	13,950	10,816	11,448	13,525	13,753	13,517	14,233	12,637	13,871	13,265	12,200
Shelby	349,404	373,404	31,071	29,946	31,489	33,201	32,979	39,152	39,641	39,765	39,972	38,579	41,855	37,871	36,940
Sumter	32,578	33,488	3,003	2,991	3,100	2,939	2,766	3,437	3,087	3,201	3,231	2,991	3,327	3,195	3,254
Talladega	299,552	323,147	25,786	24,830	30,182	26,750	26,369	32,811	29,688	34,801	31,184	32,917	31,851	29,658	28,328
Tallapoosa	152,999	156,902	12,389	12,760	14,062	9,871	9,399	11,688	11,616	12,434	12,370	12,256	12,996	14,017	10,939
Tuscaloosa	739,660	766,952	62,316	63,326	76,627	60,892	59,713	63,289	63,006	67,034	69,242	64,886	70,078	67,442	64,203
Walker	363,816	388,614	31,469	31,208	35,708	28,034	27,644	32,109	32,889	32,398	34,860	31,774	34,298	32,979	31,276
Washington	22,573	22,116	1,791	1,650	1,834	1,902	1,860	2,122	2,446	2,157	2,123	2,289	2,180	2,224	2,174
Wilcox	23,251	20,487	1,696	1,722	2,134	2,147	1,986	2,379	2,177	2,150	2,124	2,095	2,062	2,213	1,824
Winston	92,401	97,344	8,268	7,858	8,956	6,736	6,121	6,978	7,790	8,411	8,106	8,175	8,582	8,626	7,990
Statewide[6]	1,839,693	2,407,596	221,503	253,966	330,559	98,346	119,677	135,635	131,702	134,808	143,023	137,560	148,384	151,539	143,351

NOTE: Throughout this table, details do not necessarily add to totals due to rounding.

[1]Estimated total for calendar month based on adjustment of weekly data.

[2]Individual months may not add to annual totals due to late revisions in annual data.

[3]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of Dodge\DRI Construction and Real Estate Information Service.

[4]Civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employment are adjusted by place of residence, and total nonagricultural employment and its components are by place of work. All monthly data are adjusted to a March benchmark of the previous year.

[5]Includes both inbound and outbound shipments by water moving through private facilities as well as through the Alabama State Docks; excludes tonnage for military installations.

[6]Gross gallons of gasoline as reported by wholesale distributors.

[7]These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of R.L. Polk and Company.

[8]Retail sales data represent sales at retail which are subject to sales tax as reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue under the definition of the Alabama Sales Tax Law. Total sales figures include taxable sales at retail by wholesalers and other nonretail firms as well as retail concerns. Sales at retail thus defined should not be confused with all sales (including nonretail sales) by retail concerns as reported in the Census of Retail Trade. Monthly sales figures are preliminary and subject to revision on a continuing basis. ***Sales figures for the two latest months are normally low because they do not yet include data from late reporters.*** Retail sales historical data prior to 1984 are not available for the new series. The "Statewide" category in the "County" section provides sales figures which are not attributable to individual counties; it does not represent a state total. MSA and county level sales are estimated for multi-county firms using the 1985 disaggregation survey conducted by the Alabama Department of Revenue. Data estimates, thus, may not reflect current disaggregations for these firms.

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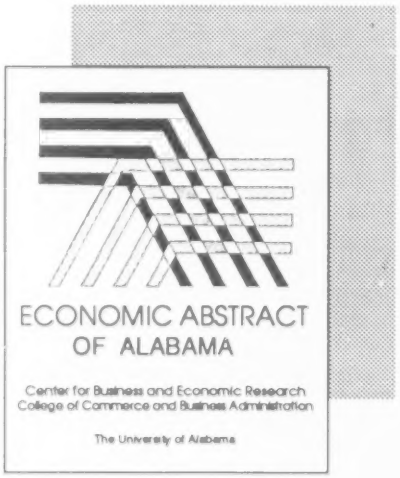
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